



Friends of Nelson Press Release
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Anti-Pipeline Group Vows to Fight on After Court Ruling

Friends of Nelson, a citizens group formed to challenge the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline, will fight on, despite the U.S. Supreme Court's adverse decision in the so-called Cowpasture case. This is only one of the many legal challenges and rapidly changing public attitudes that stand in the way of the 600 mile project that would cross Nelson County.

Doug Wellman, president of Friends of Nelson, noted that the ACP still faces numerous legal challenges. "The high court's ruling does not open the door to construction, because other flaws in the Forest Service permit still must be addressed. While we are disappointed by the Supreme Court's decision, the great majority of the legal challenges to the Pipeline have been successful. As a result, the Pipeline lacks at least 8 permits that it needs to move forward. We will continue to fight the ACP with every ounce of our energy to stop its destructive path through Nelson County and many other communities."

Ernie Reed, formerly president of Friends of Nelson and currently a member of the Nelson County Board of Supervisors, called attention to one of the current challenges facing the ACP: "We are focused on last Thursday's announcement that the Forest Service has been forced to draft a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the ACP project. The George Washington National Forest, dozens of citizen groups and an amazing legal team still stand in the way of the ACP."

Wellman stated: "We view the ACP as a misguided investment in an outmoded model of energy production. Just when a clean energy economy is finally in sight, Dominion wants to take a huge step backward. The ACP is based on Twentieth Century thinking. Building it would retard the shift to the clean energy economy we must have. The path forward has been laid out in recent state legislation anchored by the landmark Clean Economy Act that calls for 100 percent clean energy by 2045. It is time for Dominion to abandon its profit-seeking pipeline plan and put its many resources to work for a brighter future for all."